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re·cess [ri-ses, ree-ses] ⓘ Show IPA

—noun

1. temporary withdrawal or cessation from the usual work or activity.
2. a period of such withdrawal.
3. a receding part or space, as a bay or alcove in a room.
4. an indentation in a line or extent of coast, hills, forest, etc.
5. recesses, a secluded or inner area or part: *in the recesses of the palace*.

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—verb (used with object)

6. to place or set in a recess.
7. to set or form as or like a recess; make a recess or recesses in: *to recess a wall*.
8. to suspend or defer for a recess: *to recess the Senate*.

—verb (used without object)

9. to take a recess.

Use [recess](#) in a Sentence

Origin:

1510–20; < L *recessus* a withdrawal, receding part, equiv. to *recēd* (*ere*) to *recede*¹ + *-tus* suffix of v. action, with *at* > ss

—Related forms

[non·re·cess](#), [noun](#)

—Synonyms

1. respite, rest, break, vacation.

